

In a corresponding Chinese application, dated March 10, 2006, the Chinese Patent Office cited Chinese Patent Document No. 1183860. This Chinese language document corresponds to PCT/US96/00165, which published in the English language as WO 96/21264 on July 11, 1996. Citation No. BA is not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicant states:

The requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance of Citation No. BA is satisfied by Citation No. BB, the corresponding International Application. Applicants submit herewith a copy of the title page for Citation No. BA, and a full copy of the English language corresponding International Application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2).

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is in the form of an English language translation of the Chinese Patent Office Official Action, issued on March 10, 2006, which refers to the relevant portions of the references.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is “prior art” for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of up to \$300.00 or credit any excess in this fee to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Early consideration of these references is earnestly requested.

Dated: April 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Richard J. Katz

Registration No.: 47,698

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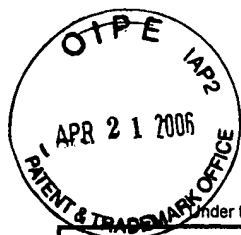
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/976,259-Conf. #9702
				Filing Date	October 12, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Tsutomu Kurokawa
				Art Unit	2834
				Examiner Name	I. N. Borissov
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	09614/000L098-US0

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	CN-1183860A (title page only)	06-03-1998			
	BB	WO-96/21264-A2 corresponding to CN-1183860A	07-11-1996	Teco Energy Management Services Corporation		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
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	CA	Notification of First Office Action (PCT Application) for Chinese Patent Application No. 01136411.4 issued by Chinese Patent Office on March 10, 2006	

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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